



RE-INTERPRETING YOUR EASTER MUSIC

by Richard Mekdeci

I hear the moans and groans each year from our music directors about how difficult it is to find thematic music for Easter while remaining grounded in our New Thought principles. Remember, in Unity and New Thought, we interpret scriptures as they relate to our lives today and not so much from their historical perspective.

Easter, when interpreted for our present day experience becomes an inspirational story of overcoming, of victory, of expressing our highest selves, of identifying our nature with God's nature. It is a story of forgiveness in the face of betrayal and of creating a new life from the ashes of death.

So when examining the Easter story and finding music and subject matter to go along with it, consider some of these "alternative" but compatible messages.

There is Only God

Past Unity Worldwide Ministries CEO, Rev. James Trapp put it this way in an article he wrote for Unity Magazine (March/April 2009).

"The Easter story demonstrates that there is something within us that was here before we incarnated and remains after seeming death. Death is not the end of life, rather the continuation of the life process. Jesus proved this in the great demonstrations known as the resurrection and the ascension. Jesus' essence was so spiritualized that he was able to say "the Father and I are one." He was serving as a reminder that there is no separation between us and Spirit. It is the recognition that there is only God; all else is just an illusion."

Songs that speak of our oneness with God and the immortality of our soul or essence, and songs seeing death as a continuation of life could be appropriate for Easter.

Overcoming

Jesus' crucifixion represents the dying of an old way of doing things or of a belief system we held dear. It can be the death of a relationship, a job, or of your life as you know it.

Resurrection follows crucifixion because usually from the ashes of the death of something old, something new and better arises. And we as a result, are more spiritually realized, more one with our creator because of it. So like Christmas where we go beyond celebrating the one-time event of Jesus' birth and interpret it as a day to day birthing of the Christ in us, the Crucifixion and Resurrection are not just one-time events but can be applied to the day to day events that happen throughout our life.

Here, messages of overcoming adversity, keeping the faith, and persevering can work for your Easter program.

Faith in God

Metaphysically, Pontius Pilate symbolizes external circumstances that may seem to be beyond our control. Jesus kept telling Pilate that he had no power over him, that God was the only power. For us today this means that no situation or circumstance (or authority figure) has power over you if you are identified fully with your Christ self.

So in this area, you can use music with the message "I am the Christ" or "Greater is he that is in me than he that is in the world."

Victory

Many interpretations of Jesus' last words on the cross have him at one time saying, "My God, my God, why hast Thou forsaken me." But the Lamsa Bible translation which translates from the original Aramaic interprets his words as "It is for this purpose that I was born." Although these

words were spoken from the cross, they are victorious words. Jesus' example shows us that any adverse situation is an opportunity or a calling for the highest and best of who we are to shine forth. So in any situation, we don't see ourselves as victims but as victors.

Find music with the messages of personal transformation, "shining your light" or "Being all you can be".

Forgiveness

On the cross Jesus speaks these words, "Father forgive them for they know not what they do." If Jesus' enemies knew they were sending him to martyrdom and creating a worldwide movement called Christianity, would they have carried out the execution? Jesus recognized that their actions brought him to this moment where God would be glorified by his demonstration. When I feel I have been wronged by someone, I try to focus on the Truth that God is everywhere present and in every situation. From this consciousness I can create a blessing from this betrayal. Certainly the one betraying me did not intend to bless me. But I can now say, "Not only do I forgive you, but I thank you and bless you."

Songs of forgiveness, moving on, making amends can also be used in your Easter celebrations.

So there are a few new ways to Re-Interpret Easter in the New Thought/Unity/Metaphysical way that will give you much more freedom when selecting music for certain themes.

Sue Riley's "Music Resources for New Thought Churches" is a great source for finding song pairings that match specific themes. (www.empowerma.com store)

When you know and understand the positive, contemporary and practical way that Unity views Easter, you can stop dreading it and begin to enjoy it as a celebration of our selves as Christed Beings - one with God, victorious in all situations and forgiving of those who injure us.